

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2010

The City Council Transportation Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 20th day of May, 2010, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councilmembers Atkins, Butler, Cubberley, Griffith, and Chairman Quinn
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
OTHERS PRESENT:	Mr. Kris Glenn, Marketing Assistant for OU Ms. Betty Love, Assistant to Doug Myers, CART Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator Ms. Janice Oak, Progressive Independence Ms. Linda Price, Revitalization Manager Mr. Cody Ponder, Grants Specialist II for OU Mr. Wayne Wickman, OU Transit Operations Manager Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Technician IV

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CLEVELAND AREA RAPID TRANSIT (CART) ROUTES

Chairman Quinn welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He said the City of Norman has subsidized the Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) for many years and have increased funding over the last two years; however, due to budget shortfalls the City of Norman is proposing a decrease to CART in the amount of \$90,000 for FYE 2011. He said CART will be talking about how the proposed funding cuts will affect bus service, He said CART will be hosting another public meeting on June 21st at the Little Axe Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Quinn introduced Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator.

Mr. Myers highlighted the proposed changes to the bus service and asked for feedback from the audience. He said CART will be focusing on the West Norman Link, Cleveland County Express, Little Axe Link, Sooner Express, and CARTaccess with changes to begin July 1st. He said CART is working to ensure the altered service does not significantly affect riders and the proposed reductions include routes with minimal ridership. He said proposed changes are as follows:

Little Axe Link

Currently makes four trips per day, Monday through Friday

Proposed to make two trips per day, Monday through Friday

West Norman Link

Currently operated between the hours of 7:15 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday

Proposed to eliminate service after 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and eliminate Saturday service

Cleveland County Express

Currently makes stops in Lexington, Noble, and Norman to provide trips to the Social Security Administration Office in Moore every Tuesday and Friday

Proposed to eliminate stops in Lexington and Noble

Sooner Express

Currently provides commute route from Norman to Oklahoma City, leaving OU Campus around 6:00 a.m. and making its final return to Norman near 6:00 p.m. while making runs throughout the day

Proposed to drop one of the seven runs from Norman to Oklahoma City with the least ridership route being the 1:50 p.m. Norman departure time

CARTaccess

Currently provides rides in the Secondary Zone, which is service outside CARTaccess' primary fixed routes from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Proposed to stop Monday service and decrease hours to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

Mr. Myers fielded the following comments and questions from the audience:

- How did CART decide which stop to omit on the Sooner Express? Average riders are six from OKC
- What is ridership from Norman at 11:30 a.m. for Sooner Express? No numbers on hand
- Can you combine two routes for 12:30 p.m. instead? Can look at that option
- Can you use smaller busses to save money? No, still have to pay drivers, benefits, etc.
- Why don't you eliminate West Link Route? Ridership is increasing steadily and route provides service to Norman Regional Healthplex and University North Park, which has potential for great economic interest
- Couldn't OKC add one more route to Sooner Express? Only if Norman would provide funding
- Will CART be raising their fares? No
- Has CART explored a taxi voucher system to help disabled riders get from their homes to a bus route? Open to discussion
- What if CARTaccess riders have doctor appointment on Monday? Citizens were encourage to make appointments Tuesday through Friday
- Why don't college students pay fares? They do pay a student transit fee based on credit hours whether they use the bus system or not
- When will budget be approved in Norman? June 8th

Other audience comments and suggestions were:

- CARTaccess takes people to the Thunderbird Casino and Lake Thunderbird, which are not stops that are necessary to health or welfare so eliminate those types of stops
- Do not cut Sooner Express routes, find another way
- Norman needs a bus route between 36th and 48th
- People with disabilities that work need CARTaccess service on Mondays
- When price of gas is high, transportation to OKC is needed more
- Charge riders for transfers from one bus to another

Mr. Myers thanked everyone for their questions and comments and reminded them of the meeting in Little Axe. Many of those in attendance ride the Sooner Express for employment purposes and were opposed to changes to that service. Mr. Myers said CART is trying to propose cuts with the least impact to riders and will review the Sooner Express route again. He encouraged citizens to fill out comment and suggestions forms located on the table at the back of the room.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "CART Public Meeting," dated May 20, 2010
2. Public Comment and Suggestion Form

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Attest:

City Clerk

Mayor